

After two attempts to get on the ballot through legislative action, in 1990, the people of Arizona rallied to support a ballot initiative drafted by Steve Twist, then the Chief Assistant Attorney General for Arizona. Petitions were circulated and signed by thousands of Arizonans who saw and disapproved of the grave injustices in how victims were treated during the criminal justice process. The effort was truly grassroots. Led by the Victims Bill of Rights Task Force, victim advocates reached out across Arizona. On November 6, 1990, Arizonans voted overwhelmingly to add the new VBR to our constitution. In the year following, implementing statutes were drafted and passed in order to further define, preserve, and protect the constitutional victims' rights amendment.

Beyond providing constitutional rights to victims on paper, Steve Twist and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl had a vision for providing victims a way to enforce their constitutional rights and assure that their voices would be heard during the criminal justice process. In 1996, the future of non-profit victim services was shaped when they founded Arizona Voice for Crime Victims (AVCV), the very first clinic of its kind to provide both legal and social services to crime victims at no cost. The first free legal and social services clinic started in 2001, in partnership with the Arizona State University (ASU) College of Law.

Since its beginnings, with one lawyer and one social worker, AVCV has grown to be one of the most successful victims' rights advocacy organizations in the country and serves as a model for similar programs around the country. AVCV's attorneys, led by Chief Counsel Colleen Clase, represent victims of crime, without limitation on the type of crime, throughout Arizona's state superior courts, in city courts, justice courts, the federal district court, appellate courts up to the Supreme Court of the United States, and in front of Arizona's Board of Executive Clemency. AVCV's social services staff provide victims the emotional support needed to get through the criminal justice process. For nearly 25 years, AVCV has contributed significantly to advancing the enforcement of victim's rights by seeking appellate remedies. AVCV has litigated victims' rights issues of first impression that have resulted in published opinions that define, implement, preserve and protect victim's constitutional and statutory rights.

Just this year, AVCV secured an opinion from the Arizona Supreme Court that required the court to overrule their own precedent, three cases predating Arizona's VBR, and to consider another issue of first impression in order to honor and uphold the constitutional rights of crime victims. In this case, AVCV represents a child-victim who is the older sibling of a 6-year-old murder victim and a witness to the severe child abuse and neglect that led to his murder. Three of the four family members charged in connection with the murder entered into guilty pleas, negotiated by the prosecutors and criminal defendants, containing a cap on the restitution that may be ordered to the child-victim. On behalf of the child-victim, AVCV objected to the restitution cap.

On review, the Arizona Supreme Court agreed with AVCV and overruled three pre-VBR cases that required restitution caps in plea agreements, holding that restitution cannot be capped over the objection of the victim. Additionally, as a matter of first impression here in Arizona and across the country, the Arizona Supreme Court also held that counsel

for a crime victim should be before the bar during proceedings in which victims' rights are at issue.

AVCV continues to work toward changing the culture of the criminal justice system to be more inclusive for victims, both in Arizona and on the national level, through the filing of amicus briefs and through its work to modernize Arizona's court rules by fully integrating victims' rights into Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure—another task which has faced great opposition from the defense bar and certain judicial officers. AVCV's staff regularly provides training on victims' rights topics at national conferences including the National Crime Victim Law Conference, the annual National Organization for Victim Assistance Conference, and the annual Parents of Murdered Children National Conference.

One of AVCV's most important partnerships has been with ASU's College of Law. This partnership is one that is essential to training future lawyers by giving law students an opportunity to work alongside AVCV's attorneys and social workers to assist and support crime victims as they navigate the criminal process.

The work AVCV has done over the last 25 years has changed the lives of many crime victims who, without the free legal representation and social services they received, would have been left to navigate an arduous justice system on their own and without recourse when their constitutional rights were violated. AVCV has been able to provide thousands of victims with a sense of hope through understanding and asserting their constitutional rights for meaningful participation in our criminal justice system. AVCV has truly established the standard of "Justice for All—Even the Victim."

#### HONORING SUPERVISOR SHIRLEE ZANE

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Monday, December 14, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Rep. JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Supervisor Shirlee Zane in celebration of her 12 years of service on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

After graduating from Chico State University, Shirlee Zane earned Master's degrees in Theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and in Family Counseling from Sonoma State University. She served as a minister, social worker, and special education professional before being elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in 2008.

Supervisor Zane has drawn upon over 30 years of experience in human services to advocate for increased mental health services in the County of Sonoma. She worked tirelessly to pass Measure O in Sonoma County, which boosts spending on mental health and homelessness services, and expands the behavioral health mobile support team to assist law enforcement on mental health and substance abuse calls. Supervisor Zane is also an avid supporter of strong environmental policies, having served as a director of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and played an important role in establishing Sonoma Clean Power.

Perhaps the best testament to Shirlee Zane's dedication to her community is her ex-

emplary work to assist people experiencing homelessness by providing them with a place to live. She was instrumental in creating Santa Rosa's Veterans Village, which houses fourteen formerly homeless veterans, and securing funding for The Palms Inn, which provides permanent supportive housing for 130 formerly homeless residents.

Supervisor Zane's leadership has not gone unnoticed, having earned the National Alliance on Mental Illness's California Recovery Practitioner Award, the National Union of Healthcare Workers Patient Recovery Award, the Reverend Coffee Human Rights Award and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award.

Madam Speaker, Supervisor Shirlee Zane is the kind of citizen we should all strive to be. Sonoma County is certainly better as a result of her dedicated service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED DECEMBER 16

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Subcommittee on Economic Policy  
To hold hearings to examine the United States and China, focusing on winning the economic competition. WEBEX
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine irregularities in the 2020 election. SD-342/WEBEX
- Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SH-216
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration  
To hold hearings to examine Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement through United States refugee policy. SD-G50